

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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S E C R E T STATE 072280

EXDIS

FOL REPEAT STATE 072280 SENT ACTION VIENTIANE

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S E C R E T STATE 072280

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E.O. 1652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EAID, UR, US, LA

SUBJECT: LAO RECONSTRUCTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REF: (A) VIENTIANE 2352; (B) VIENTIANE 2681; (C) STATE

67787; (D) TOKYO 4565

1. FURTHER DISCUSSIONS HERE OF IMPLICATIONS OF CONSULTATIVE GROUP (CG) FOR AID TO LAOS, UNATTACHED TO ANY OVERALL INDOCHINA FORUM, LEAD US TO ELABORATE ON COMMENTS REFTEL (C).

2. ALTHOUGH FORMATION SUCH A GROUP OBVIOUSLY APPEALING TO LAOS, WE CONCERNED THAT EXPEDITIOUS FORMATION LAOS CG INDE-

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PENDENT OF GROUP FOR INDOCHINA AS A WHOLE MAY LEAD SOME

DONORS TO UNWARRANTED CONCLUSION THAT CERTAIN POLITICAL CONDITIONS MUST BE MET BEFORE A DONOR GROUP CAN BE FORMED. IMPRESSION WE DESIRE PROMOTE IS THAT A LOOSE DONOR GROUP FOR INDOCHINA CAN BE FORMED THAT IS EXTREMELY FLEXIBLE AND AFFORDS OPPORTUNITY FOR EMERGENCE OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY SUB-GROUPS FOR WHICH DIFFERENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CRITERIA ON ASSISTANCE MAY WELL BE APPLIED. SUB-GROUPS AND OVERALL INDOCHINA GROUP IN FUTURE WOULD CHANGE CHARACTER IN KEEPING WITH EVOLVING INDOCHINA SITUATION.

3. IT NOW APPEARS THAT A JUNE MEETING FOR INDOCHINA UNDER WORLD BANK AUSPICES MAY BE POSSIBLE, AND THAT DISCUSSION OF A SUB-GROUP FOR LAOS AT SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE LIKELY.

4. ACCORDINGLY, WE SUGGEST THAT THE FOREGOING BE KEPT IN MIND AS YOU ENTER INTO DISCUSSION WITH SOUVANNA PER REFTEL (C). KISSINGER

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